



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THREE SAN ANTONIO RESIDENTS SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON
FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SCHEME**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that 56-year-old Irma M. Richie, a former Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) employee, her daughter, 36-year-old Mary A. Richie and son-in-law 36-year-old David Murillo were sentenced to federal prison in connection with a scheme to defraud TWC of approximately \$167,000.

This morning, United States District Judge Xavier Rodriguez sentenced Irma Richie to 15 months in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release; sentenced David Murillo to 12 months and one day in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release; and, sentenced Mary Richie to eight months in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release. Judge Rodriguez also ordered that the defendants pay \$154,391.00 in outstanding restitution to TWC.

"Ms. Richie's job was to help people who had fallen on hard times, not rip off the taxpayers of Texas," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

On August 17, 2004, Irma and Mary Richie each pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and one count of mail fraud; David Murillo, one count of mail fraud.

From March 1997, to February 2001, the defendants were involved in a mail fraud scheme whereby they submitted false unemployment insurance claims to TWC. At the time, Irma Richie was employed by TWC and processed fraudulent written claims. The defendants also used the TWC's TeleServ telephone system to submit fraudulent claims for payment. TWC mailed payment checks to the defendants and other individuals based upon the fraudulent information.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor - Office of Inspector General and Texas Workforce Commission. Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Moore prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

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